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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,304	08/06/2001	Yutaka Yamagata	107734	5220
25944	7590	09/20/2006		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER GORDON, BRIAN R	
			ART UNIT 1743	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/674,304

Applicant(s)

YAMAGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Brian R. Gordon

Art Unit

1743

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Brian R. Gordon.

(3) _____.

(2) Leana Levin.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 25 August 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: none.

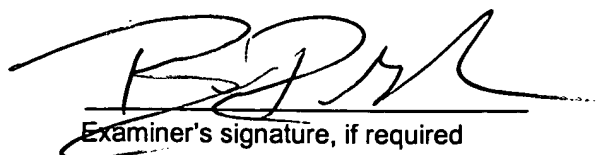
Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The examiner discussed the proposed amendment with applicant. The examiner suggested applicant further include the liquid supply means within the means for maintaining the liquid at the desired liquid level. Applicant would consider such suggestion and file a response accordingly.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

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August 23, 2006

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

To: Examiner Brian Gordon

(571) 273-1258

From: Leana Levin

Your Ref.: Application No. 09/674,304

Our Ref.: 107734

Number of Pages Sent (Including cover sheet): 5

Prepared By: ll

Comments:

Dear Examiner Gordon:

As discussed earlier today, attached are proposed claim amendments in the above application. Please feel free to contact me at (314) 621-8383 after you have had a chance to review the proposed amendments.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards.



Leana Levin
Registration No. 51,939

Sent By: law

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PROPOSED

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1. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating equipment~~ Equipment comprising:
a storage vessel storing a liquid and having a desired liquid level;
an injection tube to inject the liquid into the storage vessel;
a liquid supplying means connected to the injection tube to supply the liquid
into the storage vessel through the injection tube;

a discharging vessel having a desired liquid level and connected to the storage
vessel via a flow path, wherein the desired liquid levels of the storage vessel and the
discharging vessel are equal and the flow path is at a lower depth than the desired liquid level,
and wherein the discharge vessel and storage vessel are horizontally disposed to each other;

a discharge tube including a discharge inlet mounted above the discharging
vessel so that the discharge inlet opens therein in a configuration where a cross section of the
inlet is planar with a desired liquid level in the discharging vessel; and

a means for maintaining the liquid at the desired liquid level in the discharging
vessel and the storage vessel, wherein the means for maintaining the desired liquid level is a
liquid discharging means connected to the discharge tube to discharge the liquid from the
discharging vessel through the discharge tube, wherein operation of the liquid discharging
means maintains the desired liquid level.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1,
wherein the discharge vessel has a larger surface area than that of the storage vessel.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 2,
wherein the discharge vessel has a surface area twice or over as large as that of the storage
vessel.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 3,
wherein the discharge vessel has a surface area denary or over as large as that of the storage
vessel.

PROPOSED

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel has a depth smaller than that of the storage vessel.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein an injecting inlet of the injection tube is positioned at a lower level position than the desired liquid level in the storage vessel.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein the flow path has an opened canaliculate shape of which at least part of a bottom surface of the flow path is situated at a lower level position than the desired liquid level in the storage vessel.

PROPOSED

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein the flow path has a tubular shape of which at least a part of a bottom surface of the flow path is situated at a lower level position than the desired liquid level in the storage vessel.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein the liquid discharging means has a sufficient flow rate larger than that of the liquid supplying means.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating equipment~~ Equipment comprising:
a storage vessel storing a liquid and having a desired liquid level;
an injection tube to inject the liquid into the storage vessel;
a liquid supplying means connected to the injection tube to supply the liquid into the storage vessel through the injection tube;
a discharging vessel having a desired liquid level and joined with the storage vessel via a flow path, wherein the desired liquid levels of the storage vessel and the discharging vessel are equal and the flow path is at a lower depth than the desired liquid level;

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a discharge tube including a discharging inlet mounted above the discharging vessel so that the discharging inlet opens therein in a configuration where a cross section of the inlet is planar with a desired liquid level in the discharging vessel; and

a means for maintaining the liquid at the desired liquid level in the discharging vessel and the storage vessel, wherein the means for maintaining the desired liquid level is a liquid discharging means connected to the discharge tube to discharge the liquid from the discharging vessel through the discharge tube, wherein the discharging inlet of the discharge tube is positioned in a central region from all sides of the discharge vessel and operation of the liquid discharging means maintains the desired liquid level.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 10, wherein the discharging inlet of the discharge tube is positioned at a center axis of the discharge vessel, wherein the center axis is in a vertical direction.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein the storage vessel, the flow path and the discharging vessel are integrally formed in a single base material.

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13. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 12, wherein the base material is composed of an acrylic board.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 12, wherein at least the surfaces of the storage vessel, the flow path and the discharge vessel are hydrophilic-treated.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein the liquid supplying means and the liquid discharging means are composed of air pump mechanisms, respectively.

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16. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 15, wherein each of the air pump mechanisms comprises a rotary air pump and a liquid tank communicated with the rotary air pump.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 1, wherein the liquid supplying means and the liquid discharging means are composed of positive displacement pumps having their plunger moving back and forth in their cylinders, respectively.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A liquid treating~~ The equipment as defined in claim 17, wherein each of the plungers of the positive displacement pumps is driven by a pulse motor.

19. (Canceled)

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